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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of Alexis Johnson's Committee to Consider Possible Disclosure of Satellite Reconnaissance Information, 15 January 1964

1. The second meeting of Alexis Johnson's Inter-departmental Committee on Space was held at 3:30 p.m. on 15 January. Mr. Willard Matthias of ONE and I represented the Agency at this meeting. The first meeting on this same subject one week before had produced no significant results, but had called for several papers which were tabled at the beginning of this meeting.

2. ACDA had prepared a paper which provides a good factual account of the kinds of information that KEYHOLE photography can produce and suggests the ways in which it is related to the inspection problem as a back-up or supplement for ground inspection.

3. DDS&T tabled a paper requested by Mr. Johnson on foreign press accounts of U.S. reconnaissance activities. It was emphasized that this paper was only a random sampling of foreign press comments; however, the summary paper by OSA Security was well received.

4. The State Department tabled a third paper giving Soviet quotations, both public and private, during the last several years on satellite reconnaissance. These seemed to show a substantial reduction in Soviet opposition to this form of unilateral inspection, or at least that they were not making a current issue of it.

5. The DOD representative provided a paper prepared by DIA which clarified the extent to which KEYHOLE photography is now being provided to our NATO Allies in the form of target information and maps produced from satellite

[REDACTED]
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photography but not explicitly identified as the source. This also clarified the factual account of the number of clearances in the [REDACTED] plus an indication of the extent to which targeting data derived from KEYHOLE are spread throughout NATO.

6. There was considerable question in everyone's mind as to which of the senior officials of the NATO countries had actually been briefed and to what extent from the actual KEYHOLE system. It was recognized that there had been a number of changes of government and that it may be necessary and desirable to pick up the new premiers and permanent representatives to NATO. State Department is going to attempt to clarify the briefing status and depth of all of the key individuals in which they have an interest.

7. Mr. Johnson informed me of the discussions he had with Mr. McCone earlier about the status of [REDACTED] who are now visiting Washington. Johnson then suggested that the Director, if he has not already planned to do so, ought to consider bringing [REDACTED] into the same degree of awareness previously provided to [REDACTED]. He also urged that the DCI brief [REDACTED] if and when he goes to [REDACTED]. I agreed to try to determine what the Director's plans were in these regards.

8. There was a good deal of discussion about the disarmament negotiations in Geneva which begin on Tuesday. ACDA urged that full awareness of satellite photography at the senior levels of NATO governments would facilitate our proposals there and this provided much of the drive behind the above request. However, it was pointed out that the real problem of support to these discussions lies in the Congress where a fuller disclosure of our satellite capabilities may have to be made. Johnson then opined that if we bring Congress into full awareness we ought to arrange to do so coincidentally with a broader section of our Allies. The trend seems to be a snow-balling one to support negotiations about which I know very little, but cannot personally be optimistic.


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9. Johnson summarized the meeting thus far quite concisely.

a. He does not recommend going further with our Allies since they are not apparently challenging the intelligence which they are now receiving from us in sterilized form.

b. As a back-up and support to the Geneva problem, we may wish to brief broader sections of Congress and should then clear more of our Allies.

10. It was agreed that the State Department would prepare a summary of the meeting which would be distributed directly to the Committee of Principals without review by those present.

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13. There was also substantial discussion of a quotation attributed to Adzhubey's speech in Helsinki on September 2nd, in which he was reported by Finnish newspapers to have said:

"Another preparatory step towards pacifying the situation would be the observation posts proposed by the Soviet Union on both sides of the border between the blocs in order to observe any possible troop concentrations. With existing techniques, this kind of observation could be extended to space. One Western paper has published a picture taken of Moscow by a satellite from a height of 750 kilometers in which the Izvestia building is plainly discernible. We do not publish pictures of this kind, but I believe that we could print a similar picture of New York taken by one of our satellites."

They attached great significance to this and asked that I make quite sure that this is not the handiwork of the Covert Action Staff as it has been reported only in Finnish newspapers thus far. (Mr. Cord Meyer has confirmed that this was an actual quotation.)

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